United Nations A/RES/70/143

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 71

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/488)*]

70/143. Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights,[1] as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Welcoming the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of peoples and nations,

Expressing grave concern that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been or are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition,

Recalling the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-first[2] and previous sessions,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, including resolution 69/164 of 18 December 2014,

Reaffirming also its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, containing the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and recalling its resolution 60/1 of 16 September

[1] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

Please recycle

2005, containing the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which, inter alia, upheld the right to self-determination of peoples under colonial domination and foreign occupation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination,[3]

1. *Reaffirms* that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

2. *Declares its firm opposition* to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world;

3. *Calls upon* those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, in particular the brutal and inhuman methods reportedly employed in the execution of those acts against the peoples concerned;

4. *Deplores* the plight of millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of the aforementioned acts, and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and with honour;

5. *Requests* the Human Rights Council to continue to give special attention to violations of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on this question to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015

---

[3] A/70/314.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 72 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/489/Add.1)*]

70/144. International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/155 of 18 December 2013,

Welcoming the forthcoming fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[1] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[1]

1. *Welcomes* the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth[2] and seventieth[3] sessions;

2. *Also welcomes* the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions[4] and on its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions;[5]

3. *Decides* to devote one plenary meeting of the General Assembly, within existing resources, at its seventy-first session, to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[1] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[1] and requests the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations with Member States in order to determine the modalities for that meeting;

4. *Invites* the Chairs of the two Committees, within existing resources, to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights";

[1] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/69/40), vols. I and II.

[3] Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 40* (A/70/40).

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 2* (E/2014/22).

[5] Ibid., *2015, Supplement No. 2* (E/2015/22).

Please recycle

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto,[6] including with regard to all reservations and declarations made, through the United Nations websites.

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015

---

[6] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex, resolution 44/128, annex, and resolution 63/117, annex.

United Nations A/RES/70/145*

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 72 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/489/Add.1)*]

70/145. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 67/160 of 20 December 2012, as well as relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling also its resolution 68/268 of 9 April 2014 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system,

Recalling further the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed the full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms without discrimination,

Welcoming the fact that, since the opening for signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[1] and the Optional Protocol thereto[2] on 30 March 2007, 160 States have signed and 160 States and 1 regional integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention and 92 States have signed and 88 States have ratified the Optional Protocol,

Bearing in mind the upcoming tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, to be commemorated in December 2016,

Welcoming the appointment of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities by the Human Rights Council and her report to the General Assembly on the right of persons with disabilities to social protection,[3]

Noting with appreciation the work and activities that have been and continue to be undertaken in support of the Convention, including through, inter alia, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

---

* Reissued for technical reasons on 7 April 2016.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[2] Ibid., vol. 2518, No. 44910.

[3] A/70/297.

[4] A/69/284.

Please recycle

the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Special Rapporteur, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility and the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention,

Acknowledging the contribution of recent international meetings and their outcome documents, including, inter alia, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, held on 23 September 2013,[5] the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014,[6] the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015,[7] and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held from 25 to 27 September 2015,[8] towards the fulfilment and mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on 25 September 2015[8] and its inclusion of persons with disabilities,

Expressing concern that persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, can face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination,

1. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[1] and the Optional Protocol thereto[2] as a matter of priority;

2. *Encourages* States that have ratified the Convention and submitted one or more reservations to it to review regularly the effect and continued relevance of such reservations and to consider the possibility of withdrawing them;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to assist States to become parties to the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto, bearing in mind that the upcoming tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention offers an opportunity to create new momentum towards its universalization, including by providing assistance with a view to achieving universal adherence;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant sustainable development strategies, and encourages States to apply a human rights-based approach and to intensify their efforts to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[8] consistent with their international obligations;

5. *Notes* that disability-specific indicators, which are sensitive to the measuring of existing inequality gaps within different population groups, can improve the identification of existing social, economic and political inequalities, and recalls that processes for the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at all levels will be, inter alia, based on data that is of high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics that are relevant within national contexts;

---

[5] Resolution 68/3.

[6] Resolution 69/2.

[7] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[8] Resolution 70/1.

6. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to strengthen efforts undertaken to disseminate accessible and easy to understand information on the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto, including to children and young people to promote their understanding, and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under those instruments;

7. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities to address and engage in interactive dialogues with the General Assembly annually, under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights", as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

8. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level panel meeting late in 2016 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, aimed at promoting its universalization;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the situation of women and girls with disabilities, in consultation with relevant United Nations agencies, including, inter alia, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), taking into account the views of relevant stakeholders and using existing available materials, and to include a segment on the status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the Office of the High Commissioner has adequate resources for the fulfilment of its tasks with respect to its work on the rights of persons with disabilities.

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015

United Nations A/RES/70/146

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 72 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/489/Add.1)*]

70/146. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Reaffirming also that no one shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Recalling that freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a non-derogable right under international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, that must be respected and protected under all circumstances, including in times of international or internal armed conflict or disturbance or any other public emergency, that the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is affirmed in relevant international instruments and that legal and procedural safeguards against such acts must not be subject to measures that would circumvent this right,

Recalling also that the prohibition of torture is a peremptory norm of international law without territorial limitation and that international, regional and domestic courts have recognized the prohibition of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as customary international law,

Recalling further the definition of torture contained in article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[1] and the obligation of States to abide strictly by the definition of torture contained in article 1, without prejudice to any international instrument or national legislation which contains or may contain provisions of wider application, and emphasizing the importance of properly interpreting and implementing the obligations of States with respect to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Recognizing that States must protect the rights of those facing criminal sentences, including the death penalty and life imprisonment without the possibility

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

Please recycle

of parole, and of other affected persons in accordance with their international obligations,

Noting that, under the Geneva Conventions of 1949,[2] torture and inhuman treatment are a grave breach and that, under the statute of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[3] acts of torture can constitute crimes against humanity and, when committed in a situation of armed conflict, constitute war crimes,

Recognizing the importance of the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[4] which makes a significant contribution to the prevention and prohibition of torture, including by prohibiting secret places of detention and by ensuring legal and procedural safeguards for persons deprived of their liberty, and encouraging all States that have not done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention,

Commending the persistent efforts of civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and national preventive mechanisms, and the considerable network of centres for the rehabilitation of victims of torture, to prevent and combat torture and to alleviate the suffering of victims of torture,

Deeply concerned about all acts which can amount to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment committed against persons exercising their rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in all regions of the world,

1. *Condemns* all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including through intimidation, which are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever and can thus never be justified, and calls upon all States to implement fully the absolute and non-derogable prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

2. *Also condemns* any action or attempt by States or public officials to legalize, authorize or acquiesce in torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under any circumstances, including on grounds of national security and counter-terrorism or through judicial decisions, and urges States to ensure the accountability of those responsible for all such acts;

3. *Stresses* that States must neither punish personnel for not obeying orders to commit or conceal acts amounting to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading

[2] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.
[3] Ibid., vol. 2187, No. 38544.
[4] Ibid., vol. 2716, No. 48088.

treatment or punishment nor allow pleas of *respondeat superior* as a criminal defence in cases in which such orders were obeyed;

4. *Emphasizes* that acts of torture in armed conflict are serious violations of international humanitarian law and in this regard constitute war crimes, that acts of torture can constitute crimes against humanity and that the perpetrators of all acts of torture must be prosecuted and punished, and in this regard notes the efforts of the International Criminal Court to end impunity by seeking to ensure accountability and punishment of perpetrators of such acts, in accordance with the Rome Statute,[3] bearing in mind its principle of complementarity, and encourages States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Rome Statute;

5. *Also emphasizes* that States must take persistent, determined and effective measures to prevent and combat all acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, stresses that all acts of torture must be made offences under national criminal law punishable by appropriate penalties that take into account their grave nature, and calls upon States to prohibit under national law acts constituting cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

6. *Stresses* that States must ensure that no statement that is established to have been made as a result of torture is invoked as evidence in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made, urges States to extend that prohibition to statements made as a result of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and recognizes that adequate corroboration of statements, including confessions, used as evidence in any proceedings constitutes one safeguard for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

7. *Urges* States not to expel, return ("refouler"), extradite or in any other way transfer a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture, stresses the importance of effective legal and procedural safeguards in this regard, and recognizes that diplomatic assurances, where given, do not release States from their obligations under international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, in particular the principle of non-refoulement;

8. *Recalls* that, for the purpose of determining whether there are such grounds, the competent authorities shall take into account all relevant considerations, including, where applicable, the existence in the State concerned of a consistent pattern of gross, flagrant or mass violations of human rights;

9. *Urges* States to ensure that border control operations and reception centres fully comply with international human rights obligations and commitments, including the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

10. *Calls upon* all States to implement effective measures to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, particularly in places of detention and other places where persons are deprived of their liberty, including legal and procedural safeguards, as well as education and training of personnel who may be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment;

11. *Recalls* its resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988 on the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, and in this context stresses that ensuring that any individual arrested or detained is promptly brought before a judge or other independent judicial officer

in person, and permitting prompt and regular medical care and legal counsel throughout all stages of detention, as well as visits by family members and independent monitoring mechanisms, are effective measures for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

12. *Welcomes* the adoption of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),[5] and invites States to assess their national legislation and practices in accordance with them;

13. *Reminds* all States that prolonged incommunicado detention or detention in secret places can facilitate the perpetration of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and can in itself constitute a form of such treatment, and urges all States to respect the safeguards concerning the liberty, security and dignity of the person and to ensure that prolonged incommunicado detention and secret places of detention and interrogation are abolished;

14. *Emphasizes* that conditions of detention must respect the dignity and human rights of persons deprived of their liberty, highlights the importance of reflecting on this in efforts to promote respect for and protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, calls upon States to address and prevent detention conditions amounting to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, notes in this regard concerns about solitary confinement, and encourages States to take effective measures to address overcrowding in detention facilities, which may have an impact on the dignity and human rights of persons deprived of their liberty;

15. *Welcomes* the establishment of national preventive mechanisms to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, urges States to consider establishing, appointing, maintaining or enhancing independent and effective mechanisms that have experts with the required capabilities and professional knowledge to undertake monitoring visits to places of detention, inter alia, with a view to preventing acts of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and calls upon States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[6] to fulfil their obligation to designate or establish national preventive mechanisms that are truly independent, properly resourced and effective;

16. *Calls upon* all States to take appropriate effective legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures to prevent and prohibit the production, trade, export, import and use of equipment that has no practical use other than for the purpose of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

17. *Urges* States, as an important element in preventing and combating torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to ensure that no authority or official orders, applies, permits or tolerates any sanction, reprisal, intimidation or other prejudice against any person, group or association, including persons deprived of their liberty, for contacting, seeking to contact or having been in contact with any national or international monitoring or preventive

[5] Resolution 70/175, annex.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2375, No. 24841.

body active in the prevention and combating of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

18. *Also urges* States to ensure accountability for any act of sanction, reprisal, intimidation or other form of unlawful prejudicial conduct against any person, group or association, including persons deprived of their liberty, for cooperating, seeking to cooperate or having cooperated with any national or international monitoring or preventive body active in the prevention and combating of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, by ensuring impartial, prompt, independent and thorough investigations of any alleged act of sanction, reprisal, intimidation or other form of unlawful prejudicial conduct; to bring the perpetrators to justice; to provide access to effective remedies for victims, in accordance with their international human rights obligations and commitments; and to prevent any recurrence;

19. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[1] to fulfil their obligation to submit for prosecution or extradite those alleged to have committed acts of torture, regardless of where such acts were committed, if the alleged offender is present in any territory under their jurisdiction, and encourages other States also to do so, bearing in mind the need to fight impunity;

20. *Encourages* States to consider establishing or maintaining appropriate national processes to record allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to ensure that such information is accessible in accordance with applicable law;

21. *Stresses* that an independent, competent domestic authority must promptly, effectively and impartially investigate all allegations of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as wherever there is reasonable ground to believe that such an act has been committed, and that those who encourage, instigate, order, tolerate, acquiesce in, consent to or perpetrate such acts must be held responsible, brought to justice and punished in a manner commensurate with the severity of the offence, including the officials in charge of any place of detention or other place where persons are deprived of their liberty where the prohibited act is found to have been committed;

22. *Recalls*, in this respect, the Principles on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Istanbul Principles)[7] as a valuable tool in efforts to prevent and combat torture and the updated set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity;[8]

23. *Emphasizes* that States shall keep under systematic review interrogation rules, instructions, methods and practices, as well as arrangements for the custody and treatment of persons subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment in any territory under their jurisdiction, with a view to preventing cases of torture;

24. *Encourages* all States to ensure that persons charged with torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment have no involvement in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any person under arrest, detention,

[7] Resolution 55/89, annex.

[8] E/CN.4/2005/102/Add.1.

imprisonment or other deprivation of liberty while such charges are pending and, if such persons are convicted, after the conviction;

25. *Calls upon* all States to adopt a victim-oriented approach[9] in the fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, paying special attention to the views and needs of victims in policy development and other activities relating to rehabilitation, prevention and accountability for torture;

26. *Also calls upon* all States to adopt a gender-sensitive approach in the fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, paying special attention to gender-based violence;

27. *Calls upon* States to ensure that the rights of persons who are marginalized and most vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, [10] are fully integrated into torture prevention and protection, and welcomes the efforts of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in this regard;

28. *Stresses* that national legal systems must ensure that victims of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment have effective access to justice and obtain redress without suffering any retribution for bringing complaints or giving evidence;

29. *Calls upon* States to provide redress for victims of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, encompassing effective remedy and adequate, effective and prompt reparation, which should include restitution, fair and adequate compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, taking into full account the specific needs of the victim;

30. *Urges* States to ensure that appropriate rehabilitation services are promptly available to all victims without discrimination of any kind and without limitation in time, until the fullest rehabilitation possible has been achieved, and are provided either directly by the public health system or through the funding of private rehabilitation facilities, including those administered by civil society organizations, and to consider making rehabilitation services available to the immediate families or dependants of the victims and to persons who have suffered harm while intervening to assist victims in distress or to prevent victimization;

31. *Also urges* States to establish, maintain, facilitate or support rehabilitation centres or facilities where victims can receive such treatment and where effective measures for ensuring the safety of their staff and patients are taken;

32. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention against Torture and to give early consideration to signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol thereto as a matter of priority;

33. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to make the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention concerning inter-State and individual communications, to consider the possibility of withdrawing their reservations to article 20, to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of the amendments to articles 17 and 18, with a view to enhancing the

[9] See A/HRC/16/52.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

effectiveness of the Committee against Torture as soon as possible, and to comply strictly with their obligations under the Convention, including, in view of the high number of reports not submitted in time, their obligation to submit reports in accordance with article 19 of the Convention, and invites States parties to incorporate a gender perspective and information concerning persons who are marginalized and most vulnerable, including children and juveniles and persons with disabilities, when submitting reports to the Committee;

34. *Welcomes* the work and the reports of the Committee and of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, recommends that their reports continue to include information on the follow-up by States parties to their recommendations, supports the Committee and the Subcommittee in their efforts to further improve the effectiveness of their working methods, and invites the Chairs of the Committee and the Subcommittee to present oral reports on the work of the committees and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions under the sub-item entitled "Implementation of human rights instruments" of the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights";

35. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in conformity with his mandate established by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to continue to provide, at the request of States, advisory services for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including for the preparation of national reports to the Committee and for the establishment and operation of national preventive mechanisms, as well as technical assistance for the development, production and distribution of teaching materials for this purpose, and to provide the support necessary to enable the Subcommittee to provide advice and assistance to States parties to the Optional Protocol;

36. *Emphasizes* the importance of States ensuring proper follow-up to the recommendations and conclusions of the relevant treaty bodies and mechanisms, including the Committee, the Subcommittee, national preventive mechanisms and the Special Rapporteur, while recognizing the important role of the universal periodic review, national human rights institutions and other relevant national or regional bodies in preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

37. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim reports of the Special Rapporteur addressing the key role that forensic science plays with regard to the obligation of States to effectively investigate and prosecute allegations of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment[11] and the extraterritorial application of the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment and attendant obligations under international law,[12] encourages him to continue to include in his recommendations proposals on the prevention and investigation of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including its gender-based manifestations, and requests him to continue to consider including in his reports information on the follow-up by States to his recommendations, visits and communications, including progress made and problems encountered, and on other official contacts;

[11] A/69/387.

[12] A/70/303.

38. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of his tasks, to supply all necessary information requested by him, to fully and expeditiously respond to and follow up on his urgent appeals, to give serious consideration to responding favourably to requests by him to visit their countries and to enter into a constructive dialogue with him on requested visits to their countries as well as with respect to the follow-up to his recommendations;

39. *Stresses* the need for the continued regular exchange of views among the Committee, the Subcommittee, the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations mechanisms and bodies, as well as for the pursuit of cooperation with relevant United Nations programmes, notably the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with regional organizations and mechanisms, as appropriate, and with civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, with a view to enhancing further their effectiveness and cooperation on issues relating to the prevention and eradication of torture by, inter alia, improving coordination;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, within the overall budgetary framework of the United Nations, the provision of adequate staff and facilities for the bodies and mechanisms involved in preventing and combating torture and assisting victims of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including, in particular, the Committee, the Subcommittee and the Special Rapporteur, commensurate with the strong support expressed by Member States for preventing and combating torture and assisting victims of torture, in order to enable them to discharge their mandates in a comprehensive, sustained and effective manner, and taking fully into account the specific nature of their mandates;

41. *Recognizes* the global need for international assistance to victims of torture, stresses the importance of the work of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, appeals to all States and organizations to contribute annually to the Fund, preferably with a substantial increase in the level of contributions, and welcomes the establishment of and encourages contributions to the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to support the implementation of the recommendations made by the Subcommittee and of educational programmes by the national preventive mechanisms;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to transmit to all States the appeals of the General Assembly for contributions to the Funds, to include the Funds, on an annual basis, among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, and to submit to the Human Rights Council, and to the General Assembly at its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions, a report on the operations of the Funds;

43. *Welcomes* the Convention against Torture Initiative, launched in March 2014 on the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention to achieve the universal ratification and improved implementation of the Convention by 2024, as well as related regional initiatives on the prevention and eradication of torture;

44. *Calls upon* all States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as relevant intergovernmental and civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to commemorate, on 26 June, the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture;

45. *Decides* to consider at its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions the reports of the Secretary-General, including the report on the United Nations

Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol, the report of the Committee, the report of the Subcommittee and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur;

46. *Also decides* to give its full consideration to the subject matter at its seventy-second session.

80th plenary meeting
17 December 2015